

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PAPANDREOU LAUNCHES PASOK'S PRE-ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

REF: ATHENS 6407

1. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU FORMALLY LAUNCHED PAN-HELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT, (PASOK), PRE-ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN OCTOBER 10 WITH PRESS CONFERENCE TO ANNOUNCE MERGER OF PASOK'S CHIEF COMPONENTS DEMOCRATIC DEFENSE AND PAN-HELLENIC LIBERATION MOVEMENT (PAK). BOTH ORGANIZATIONS WERE ACTIVE IN RESISTANCE EFFORTS DURING MILITARY REGIMES WITH PAPANDREOU LEADING PAK. AT PRESS CONFERENCE CROWDED WITH YOUTHFUL SUPPORTERS, PAPANDREOU ADMONISHED GREEK VOTERS THAT THEIR CHOICE ON NOVEMBER 17 WILL DETERMINE NATIONAL DESTINY WHICH OF NECESSITY SIGNALS A TOUGH ELECTORAL BATTLE. DEMOCRATIC DEFENSE'S LEADER PROFESSOR DIONYSSOS KARAGEORGAS WHO LOST MOST OF HIS HAND WHILE MAKING BOMB IN 1969 STRONGLY ENDORESED HIS ORGANIZATION'S MERGER WITH PASOK WHOSE PLATFORM HE ANNOUNCED WOULD BE SPELLED OUT IN COMING DAYS.

2. PAPANDREOU TOLD PRESS CORPS AND ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTERS THAT ACCELERATION OF ELECTIONS DATE WAS "PETTY PARTY TRICK," SINCE NO DANGER OF COUP EXISTED AS LEADERS OF FORMER REGIME WERE SHARING POWER EVEN NOW WITH NEW GOVERNMENT. PAPANDREOU COMPLAINED

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THAT CARAMANLIS HAS NOT AS YET CLARIFIED HIS POSITION ON

MONARCHY ISSUE AND THAT MAVROS IS "CO-RESPONSIBLE" FOR CURRENT POLICY OF GOG. PASOK'S CHAIRMAN DECLARED THAT PASOK WILL PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS AS INDEPENDENT PARTY. ANSWERING QUERY ON WHETHER EX-DEPUTY ZIGDIS WOULD JOIN PASOK, PAPANDREOU EQUIVOCATED BY NOTING THAT EX-DEPUTIES FROM CENTER UNION WHO DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN PASOK WOULD BE SCRUTINIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PASOK REGULATIONS. ATHENS NEWS AGENCY NOTED PAPANDREOU ANSWERED QUERY MORE CATEGORICALLY BY REMARKING THERE WAS NO INTENTION BY ZIGDIS TO JOIN PASOK. ZIGDIS' OFFICE ISSUED RELEASE OCTOBER 10 DECLARING THAT ZIGDIS BELONGS TO CENTER UNION IN FULL SPIRIT OF ITS FOUNDING IN 1961.

3. CORRESPONDENTS WHO ATTENDED PRESS CONFERENCE DESCRIBED PROCEEDINGS AS WORTHY OF ATHENS MADHOUSE. INADEQUATE SEATING, OVER-EXUBERANT YOUTH SHOIVING AND SHOUTING, LOUDSPEAKER CUTOFFS AND NO INTERPRETERS, AND PERSISTENT MELEE AROUND SPEAKERS' TABLE KEPT PRESS SESSION IN CONSTANT TURMOIL. ONE CORRESPONDENT WHO ASKED PASOK ORGANIZER FOR INTERVIEW WITH PAPANDREOU WAS TOLD PAPANDREOU NOT OPERATING FROM PASOK OFFICE BUT FROM HOME WITH WIFE MARGARET HANDLING SCHEDULE. SAME CORRESPONDENT IN EXASPERATION THEN BATTLED THROUGH CROWD AND WITH HAND ON PAPANDREOU'S LAPEL GOT COMMITMENT FOR INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW NEXT WEEK. DESPITE CHAOS AT PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH IS PROBABLY ENDEMIC WITH ANY POLITICAL PRESS MEETING IN CAMPAIGN PERIOD, PASOK IS MAKING ORGANIZATIONAL STRIDES WITH VARIOUS PARTY GATHERINGS ANNOUNCED IN ATHENS AND PROVINCES, EX-DEPUTY K. KOUTSOHERAS HOSTING OPEN HOUSE TO PASOK SUPPORTERS FROM DACONIA, AND PUBLISHED LIST OF PARTY'S SEVENTY-FIVE MEMBER PROVISIONAL CENTRAL COMMITTEE. RELATIVE TO OTHER MAJOR PARTIES -- CENTER UNION/NEW FORCES REMAINS EMBATTLED WITH MAVERICK ZIGDIS ATTACKING MAVROS AND VENIZELOS THREATENING TO REFORM A LIBERAL MOVEMENT WHILE NEW DEMOCRACY HEADQUARTERS IS STILL WITHOUT TELEPHONES, DESKS OR IN FACT CAMPAIGN MANAGER -- PASOK APPEARS TO HAVE ORGANIZED WELL IN FIVE WEEKS SINCE ITS FOUNDING. KUBISCH

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